HSS

Record and Chronicle

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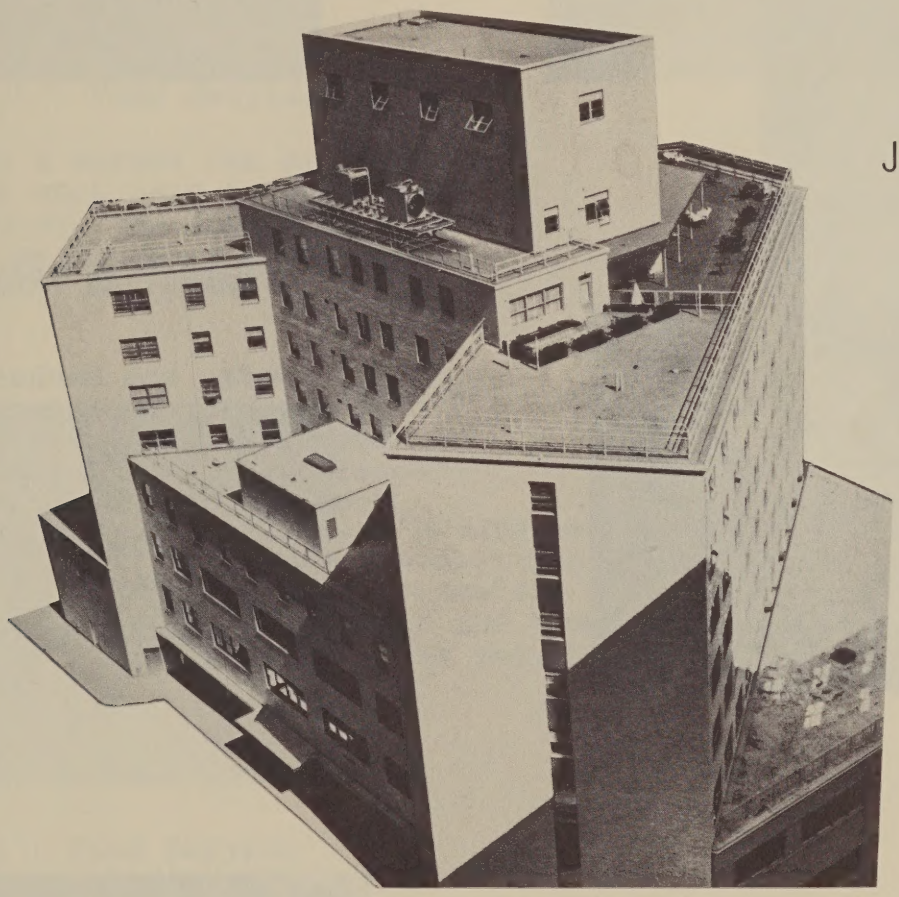
S I L V E R



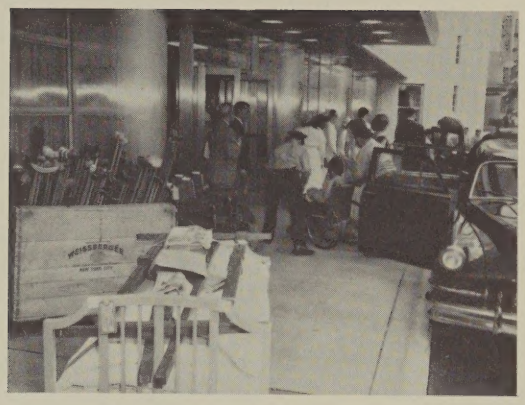
J U B I L E E

* * * OPENING DAY * * *

On May 25, 1955, just 25 years ago, the "New" Hospital for Special Surgery opened its doors for the first time. We became home for 150 patients who were served by over 500 employees. Some of those on staff then are still serving our patients today and can vividly recall the "Manhattan Transfer".

That day, amidst all the hustle and bustle of moving, our patients were served breakfast in the old hospital at 42nd Street and lunch with a spectacular view of the East River at the new HSS. It has been this kind of dynamic spirit and participation that has carried us through the years.

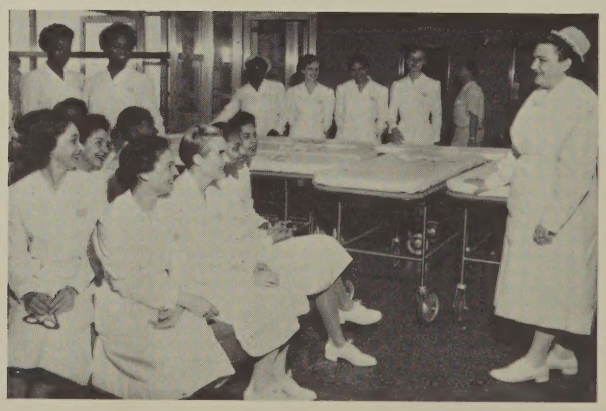
Over this last quarter century and throughout our 117 year history, we have continued to grow and expand our many services in an effort to serve the needs of our patients and community, and for this we have much to celebrate.



"MANHATTAN TRANSFER"

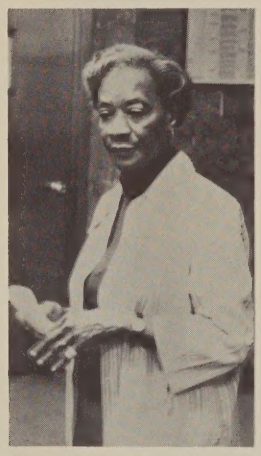
Today the Manhattan Transfer is a pretty popular singing group, but back on May 25, 1955 that term referred to our Hospital's move from its old location at East 42nd Street to its new uptown home.

What follows is a collage of recollections of that day.



Margaret Butler - Nursing Service

"I remember being very busy working alongside an ambulance driver who was making trip after trip to deliver teenage patients to the new hospital."



Randy Burrison - Food Service

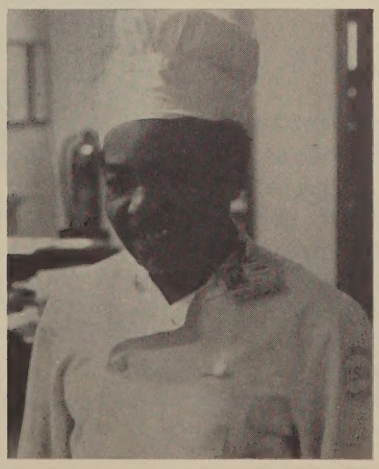
"At that time I worked for Ms. Pellich and we worked very hard to get ready to move up to our new hospital. I'm proud to say my daughter works here now."

Claire Pellich - Food Service

"Moving was done like the Army. Everything was well planned and organized and things went well. At the time we came here I was the only Dietitian on staff."

Camilo Andino - Food Service

"Like everybody else, we were very busy. I was working in the cafeteria."

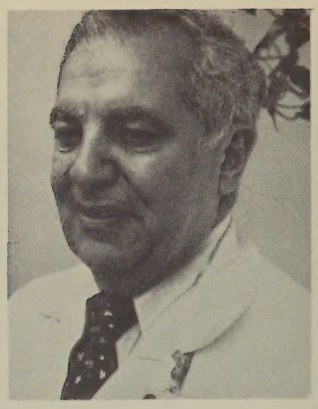


Liborio Claudio - Food Service

"The other employees and myself were very happy to be moving into the new hospital. In those days we were very busy. We didn't have slicing machines and the dishes were washed by hand."

Vincent Conti - Pharmacy

"A temporary pharmacy was set up at 70th Street before the official moving day. We were located on the first floor near where Information is now located. The department consisted of one other person and myself. We then stocked approximately 200 drugs. Today we have about 5,000."

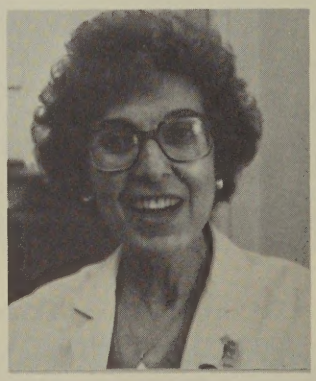


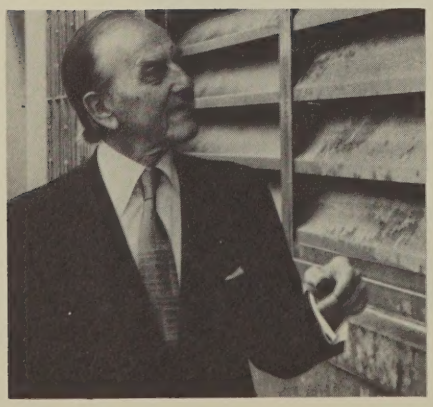
Marjorie Walker - Medical Records

"After we moved in, we had so much to do that we worked straight through the Memorial Day weekend. Everyone pitched in. We unpacked thousands of records that were previously kept in closed file cabinets and started our present system of open shelf filing."

Jane Marcella - Accounting

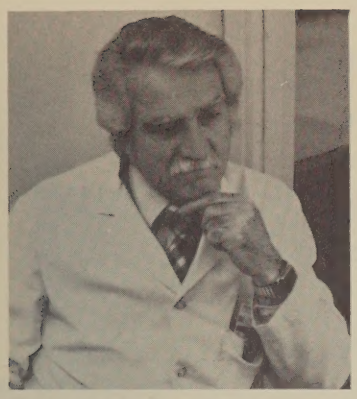
"Employees had been given a tour of the Hospital before the actual moving day. I remember the stairwells weren't completed. We thought things might not be ready, but they were and moving day was very, very hectic."





Frederick Liebolt, M.D.

"I recall a unique concern back then, the construction of HSS was held up because of negotiations over a piece of property owned by Con Edison on 71st Street and F.D.R. This was the supply source of electricity to what's now Roosevelt Island. The problem was solved by the Hospital's building over the equipment."



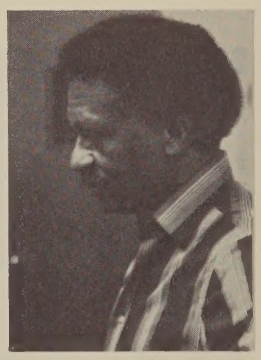
Peter Marchisello, M.D.

"I was a Junior Resident then and we worked every third night. We had general orthopaedic clinics, not specialties we now have. The admitting office consisted of just one person. Parking was a problem then because there wasn't a garage when we moved in."

Dolores Mattia

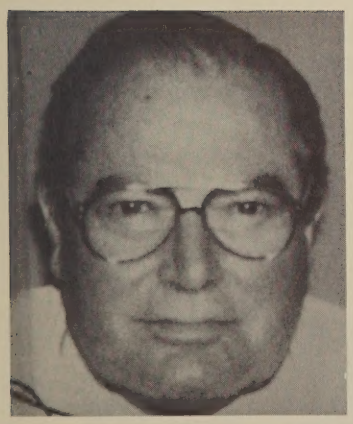
Alfonso Sisti

"It's hard to recall the actual day. However, I was working for the Director of Social Work and our office was approximately at the same location it is today. I recall walking over planks when on a tour of the hospital before the move. Employees were bussed in small groups up from 42nd Street to the new hospital."



Sylvester Oliver - Animal Care

"I was actually on Leave the day the move took place, but can remember very well all the excitement that was still going on when I returned the following week. It was really something!"

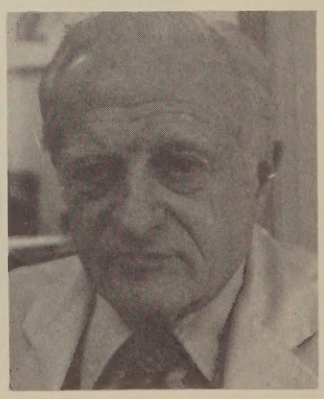


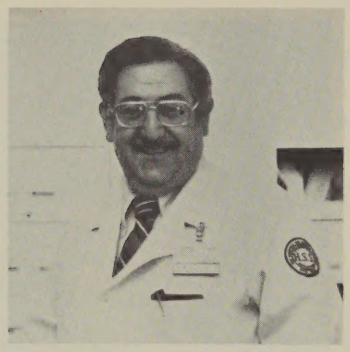
Lee Ramsay Straub, M.D.

"The transfer was a smooth procedure without untoward events in the continuation of patient care. The weather was very hot at the time and shortly thereafter it was determined that several areas would be air conditioned."

Alexander Hersh, M.D.

"I recall that a number of the staff were very excited that day. The old hospital did have a special charm, but the affiliation between the hospitals was a valuable step in medical progress."



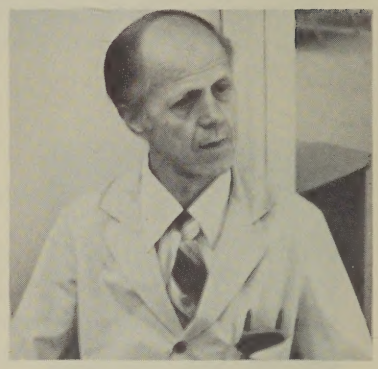


Sol Houtkin - Prosthetics & Orthotics

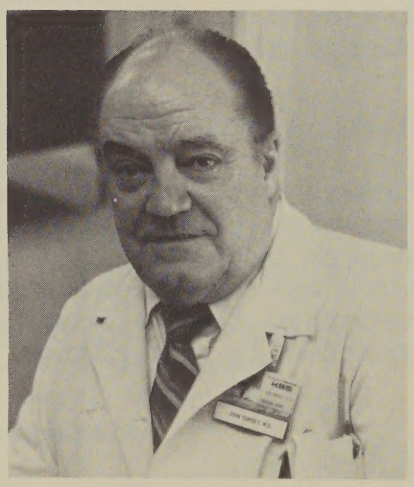
"Back then we used gas forges to make our braces and many of the employees who worked in the Brace Shop were experienced Blacksmiths or trained in Europe. I can't believe it's twenty-five years already!"

Joseph Zetterholm - Communications

"I was very busy operating the elevator in the old building. Then, they were manual with gates and a gear shift, not automatic like today."

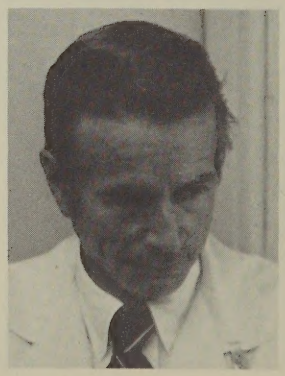


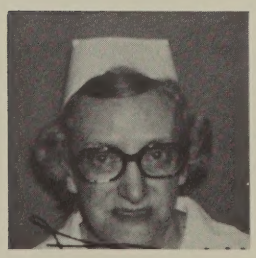
Lotte Tedesko
Rehabilitation Medicine



John Dorsey, M.D.

Ruth LeFever
Nursing Service

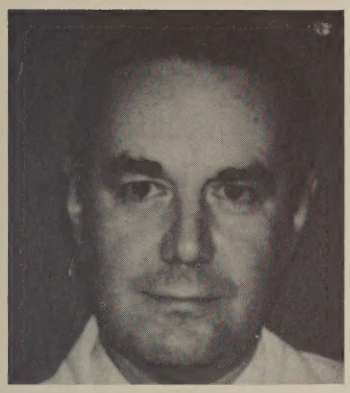




Rolla Campbell, M.D.

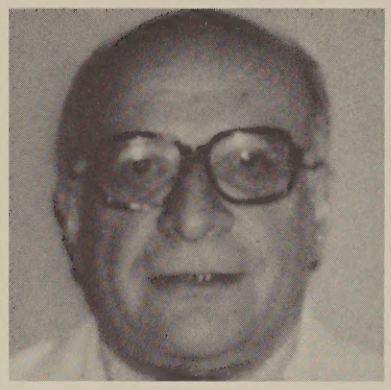
"On the actual day of the move I was in the Army stationed at Valley Forge Army Hospital. When I returned here I was an Attending in Orthopaedics."

HERE THEN - HERE NOW



John H. Doherty, M.D.

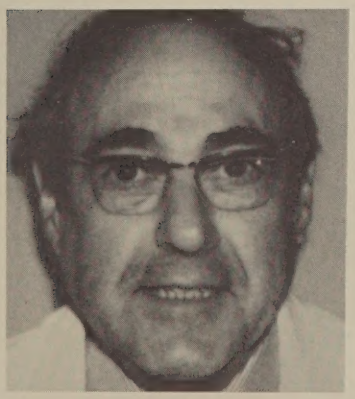
Emmanuel Rudd, M.D.



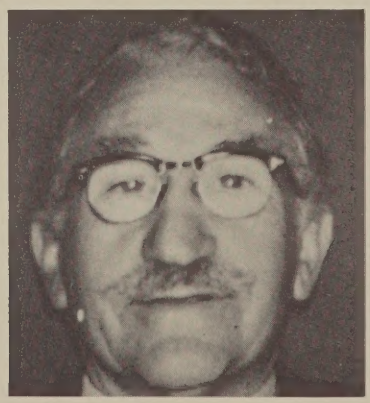
Philip D. Wilson, Jr. M.D.
Mary Birnbaum
Irene Zdanczewicz

Dr. Wilson stated that the Alumni Association will mark the Jubilee Celebration with a special program entitled "A Quarter Century of Progress-A Look to the Future". Prominent orthopaedic surgeons from the United States and other countries will participate in a three day seminar to be held November 12th-14th inclusive.

Samuel Avnet, M.D.



Victor Mayer, M.D.



A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

Today, 25 years since our relocation, we find ourselves in a new era of development. Coincidentally, our present building expansion program began with our groundbreaking ceremony on May 25, 1979 which was exactly 24 years after our opening.

Since that day last year, we have seen the completion of the structure that will house our new and expanded facilities.

Hopefully, next year at this time we will be nearing the completion of this project and will be well on our way to another quarter century of dedicated service.

THE RECORD & CHRONICLE
THE HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL SURGERY
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Donald S. Broas
Vice President and Executive Director

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